

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 908

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James Hunter Lane, Jr.,
of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of James Hunter Lane, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lane was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on July 6, 1929, to James Hunter Lane, Sr., and Lucille Barrow Lane, Hunter Lane, Jr., attended Idlewild Elementary School, Normal School, and Central High School, where he excelled academically and played quarterback on the football team when Central won the State Championship in 1949; and

WHEREAS, he also served as president of the Student Body Association and achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in Grace St. Luke's Church, Troop 34, one of the oldest troops in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, having earned an academic scholarship to Washington and Lee University, where he served as president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity and wrote for the school paper, he graduated *magna cum laude* in 1951 and continued at Washington and Lee Law School, where he served on the Editorial Board and received a law degree in 1953; and

WHEREAS, a loyal veteran of the United States military, Mr. Lane joined the Marine Corps as Officer Candidate before being commissioned as Second Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, he served as a legal officer with the 1st Marine Air Wing until he was released from active duty in November 1955, after which he served with various units of the Organized Marine Corps Reserve before finally retiring as Lieutenant Colonel in July 1978; and

WHEREAS, during that time, he also practiced law in Memphis and ran for office, resulting in his election to Commissioner of Public Service, in which capacity he served from 1964-1967; and

WHEREAS, upon leaving office, he worked with the Waring, Cox Law Firm before establishing his own firm in the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, still eager to serve his community, Hunter Lane, Jr., served on the Board of Education from 1972-1975, acting as president in 1973; and

WHEREAS, he was also highly active in the Civil Rights Movement in Memphis, working closely with Lucius Burch; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lane was deeply involved in the community through various organizations, serving as a lifelong member of the Wolf River Society and supporter of the Wolf River Conservancy; director, secretary, and legal counsel of the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce; director of the Liberty Bowl Festival Association; director and president of the Memphis USO; director of the Goodwill Boy's Club; director and president of the Northeast Mental Health Center; member of the Executive Committee of the Chickasaw Council, BSA; director and secretary of the Metropolitan Board of the YMCA; director and president of the Memphis Better Schools Committee; director and president of the Midtown Mental Health Center; member and president of the Downtown Kiwanis Club, which presented him with a Lifetime Member Certificate; and life member of the Board of Directors of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, which he also served as Protestant co-chairman and chairman on the Committee on Race; and

WHEREAS, he also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Edward J. Meeman Foundation; president of the Booster Club for Central High School; member of the Board of Commissioners for the Memphis Housing Authority; lifelong member of Idlewild Presbyterian Church, where he served on the Board of Deacons and Board of Elders; chairman of the Every Member Canvas Committee; volunteer for the Community Legal Center; member of the Compass Club writing group for many years; and member of the Highland Hundred and the Rebounders Club, through which he supported the University of Memphis football and basketball programs; and

WHEREAS, a tireless advocate for Memphis area youth, Hunter Lane, Jr., volunteered as a mentor in the Memphis City Schools for many years and mentored children for The Dream Academy for several years; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his unending service to the people of Memphis, Mr. Lane received the Elmer Roane Award; and

WHEREAS, an adventurous traveler, he climbed many mountains in the United States and Canada with the Grey Eagles Hiking Club and traveled to every state except North Dakota and other countries on five continents with his wife, Susan; and

WHEREAS, Hunter Lane, Jr., was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, a devoted son, he was preceded in death by his parents, Lucille Barrow Lane and James Hunter Lane, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lane enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Susan Bowen Lane, and was the proud father and father-in-law of Dorothy Lane McClure and her husband, John; James Hunter Lane III and his wife, Linda; William Martin Lane; Charles Michael Bowen and his wife, Suzie; and Robert Kenneth Bowen and his wife, Sandy; and

WHEREAS, his memory will be forever cherished by his grandchildren, Corrinne Lane McClure, Anna Currie Lane, Berkley Battes Lane, James Hunter Lane IV, Colby Thompson Bowen, and Michael Kenneth Bowen; his three sisters, Mydelle Lane Wilson, Lucille Lane Floyd, and Camille Lane Gotten; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Hunter Lane, Jr., leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of James Hunter Lane, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Lane.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.